

Conservation Security Program

Fact Sheet

Minnesota, 2005

Conservation Security Program Overview

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers who are implementing conservation on America's working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, improved pasture, range land, orchards, and vineyards, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an operation. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognize the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more. The program is available to all producers regardless of size of operation or crops produced.

Basic Eligibility

The producer and the producer's operation **MUST** meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- The land must be privately owned or Tribal land, and the majority of the land must be located within one of the selected watersheds.
- The applicant must be in compliance with highly erodible and wetland compliance provisions of the Food Security act of 1985, have an active interest in the operation, and have control of the land for the life of the contract. Landlords who cash rent their land are not eligible to apply for CSP.
- Applicants must have addressed water quality and soil quality to meet the minimum treatment requirements on the land being entered into a CSP contract. Applicants may choose to enroll one field or their entire agricultural operation into a CSP contract, provided the land meets eligibility requirements.

Minnesota 2005 CSP Watersheds

CSP is being offered in five watersheds in Minnesota in 2005. Only those producers who have a majority of their land in one of these watersheds are eligible to apply for CSP this fiscal year. The five watersheds, as listed below, are: the Red Lake Watershed, the Redeye Watershed, the Sauk Watershed, the Redwood Watershed and the Root Watershed. A map showing these five watersheds is available at your USDA Service Center or online at <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html>.

Watershed	Red Lake	Redeye	Sauk	Redwood	Root	Total
Cropland	462,500	193,900	404,000	323,800	599,800	1,984,000
Pasture	59,700	68,500	102,000	46,100	99,700	376,000
Forest	173,500	165,700	67,000	0	220,000	626,200
Developed	20,600	8,800	31,900	13,500	28,100	102,900
Water	7,800	7,900	28,900	5,900	4,800	55,300
Other	126,800	78,400	83,700	68,500	92,900	450,300
Total	850,900	523,200	717,500	457,800	1,045,300	3,594,700
Number of Farms	1,103	1,211	2,138	960	3,031	8,443

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How to Apply

To apply for CSP, applicants must first complete the CSP self-assessment workbook either online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP or by picking up a copy at their local USDA Service Center. This workbook will help producers to determine whether they meet the basic eligibility requirements; to document their stewardship work including the conservation practices currently installed on their farm or ranch; and to prepare a benchmark inventory documenting conservation treatments they may have applied in previous years.

Applicants determined to be eligible must submit the completed workbook and CSP application to their local USDA Service Center during the sign-up period. Dates for the 2005 CSP sign-up will be announced at a later date.

A follow up interview will be scheduled with the applicant. Based on the application, description of conservation activities and the interview, the NRCS will determine eligibility and enrollment tier and category for the applicant.

CSP Payments

CSP contract payments will include one or more of the following payment components:

- An annual stewardship payment for the existing base level of conservation treatment
- An annual existing practice payment for the maintenance of existing conservation practices
- A one-time new practice payment for additional needed practices
- An enhancement payment for additional conservation practices or activities above and beyond those needed for basic eligibility, which provide increased resource benefits beyond the prescribed level. A list of enhancement activities will be available at the time of sign-up at your local USDA Service Center.

CSP payments are made annually for the life of the contract, as long as all of the conservation practices are maintained. CSP contracts can be 5 to 10 years in length, depending on the level of enrollment.

For More CSP Information

Visit your local USDA Service Center, listed in your local directory under U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), or online at: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html>.

Minnesota's 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP) Watersheds

